

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE THOMAS JAMES PETTEWAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. FRANKS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, Thomas James Petteway was a civic leader who was needed at his time, but he was also a civic leader who was truly ahead of his time. And for all of us who knew and loved him, Tom will be missed by us all the time.

For his sisters and brothers, in-laws, nieces, and nephews and the many cousins, especially those that make up the branch of the Petteway family, now led by my mother Jenary Petteway Franks, we all loved Tom Petteway.

But Tom was easy to love. Family came first with Tom, And he loved his family.

He as a likable person. He was a good, decent individual.

Anything Tom Petteway did, he did it well, And he did a lot. He served his country in the Army during WWII with distinction. He later presided over an area veterans club. He was an active member of the community.

Tom was an active member of the Republican Party. Back when Tom registered to vote most blacks registered with the Republican Party. Unlike many, Tom stayed with the Republican Party over the years.

I remember white old timers in the Republican Party telling me stories about Tom Petteway.

I remember blacks, like Kay Wyrick, telling me about the Black Republican Club in which Tom headed at one time.

Whites and blacks talked of Tom with sincere affection and admiration. But who could not remember his distinctive voice. Tom was a proud, articulate, well-educated man whose mere presence was felt by all whenever he appeared in a room.

Tom served the city of Waterbury in an official capacity as a member of the Welfare Board.

He served as president of the Waterbury Chapter of the NAACP during one of the most contentious civil rights periods.

Without any doubt Tom Petteway distinguished himself as one of Waterbury's leading black civic leaders.

Tom Petteway was a pioneer. Tom Petteway was ahead of his time.

It was easier for my generation of black leaders because of people like Tom Petteway.

That is why people from my generation need to pause and thank people like Tom Petteway for blazing the trail for us.

And, I do that again today.

When I was starting out in Republican politics back in the early eighties, it seemed as though Tom was always at the big events.

He offered me a great deal of encouragement and he also gave me little tips from time to time, like for example: He said you may go to a meeting but what

you may not realize is that there may have been a meeting before the real meeting in which you were not invited.

It was not long before I too found that to be true.

When the big Republican events turned out to be events for me, Tom was always there to offer his support. He was not feeling well all the time but he was always there.

As a Congressman I frequently made it my point to stop by the West Haven Veterans Hospital to see my cousin Tom. And, he was well known there too.

Tom Petteway was a leader in this time. Tom Petteway was ahead of his time.

But for those who knew Tom, we are grateful that he lived during our time.

□ 1530

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GEPHARDT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

REMEMBERING SECRETARY RON BROWN AND THOSE WHO PERISHED WITH HIM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember still, as we are all still feeling, those who were on the plane with Secretary Ron Brown. It was a loss that this country feels now and is going to feel for quite a long time.

In West Virginia we feel this deeply, the loss of the Government personnel, the military personnel, the private sector personnel. In addition to Secretary Brown we lost William Morton of Huntington who was buried Saturday in Huntington, who was long time involved in so many things that made this country great: political campaigns and working with Secretary Brown in a number of capacities.

He grew up and graduated, went to Huntington High School and went on to make his mark in so many different areas. I give thanks for his life and that of Ron Brown's. With Secretary Brown he was a man of composure, a man of pragmatism, a man of obvious intelligence, and a compassionate man.

So many stories that each of us has about Secretary Ron Brown. I remember one. He visited Martinsburg, WV, at my request somewhere around 2 years ago. We had a celebration, he was kicking off a compressed natural gas vehicle caravan. We had bands out there, and there were two little children that were making presentations.

I still remember that Secretary Brown was there surrounded, by Members of Congress and the State leadership and the city leadership and the county leadership, and everybody's in a

suit looking very official, and these two little girls. One of the little girls was making a presentation in the microphone, and of course she was dressed in her Sunday best, and she was a little awed by all of this and she had trouble with a couple of her words. Secretary Brown nodded very patiently, went over and leaned over and said take your time. Just take your time. She smiled and finished like a champ.

Secretary Brown was, we liked to kid him, he was a property owner in West Virginia owning property in the Canaan Valley. But I think what he will be remembered for, so much he will be remembered because more people are working today in this country because of Ron Brown. There are more opportunities for people today in this country because of Ron Brown. There are more jobs that have been created in this country today because of Ron Brown. There are more trade opportunities here and abroad because of Ron Brown.

The Commerce Department, which has been a traditional backwater for many years, is a thriving vibrant department today because of Ron Brown. In so many areas we see his hand and we are going to miss that guiding hand.

The testimony of Ron Brown, well, there are so many testimonies, but I know one. As well as being a member of the Democratic Party, he is the one who put us back on track. He took a demoralized party and turned it, in just a few short years, to one that won the Presidency for the first time in 12 years. A tribute to Ron Brown is how many of us, how many people who came in contact with him called him friend.

I was at a meeting in Missouri this week, Republicans and Democrats alike, as well as foreign parliamentarians, and Ron Brown's name came up. And all of us stopped and every one of us had a story to tell about Ron Brown. Every one of us wanted to tell that story. Every one of us knew him as friends. Ron Brown was our friend. He was a friend of America's and we miss him. We miss him, very, very much.

THE RICKY RAY HEMOPHILIA RELIEF FUND ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, a majority of the House now agrees that we should provide compassionate assistance to the 8,000 victims of hemophilia-associated aids. The Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act—which establishes a compensation program for the victims of this tragedy—now carries 219 bipartisan cosponsors. I introduced the Ricky Ray Bill—which is named for a constituent who was 15 when he died of hemophilia-associated Aids in 1992. We started with two dozen sponsors.

But each week for the past year the support for this measure has grown thanks to the awesome grassroots participation of the victims of hemophilia-